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us as void of them as if they had never existed.

To constitute a good memory, there are three qualities : upon a due proportion of each, all the basis of memory rests, viz. susceptibility, retentiveness, and readiness.

Susceptibility is the capacity of remembering a great many subjects with facility and quickness, and from the easy attainment of any object, the possessors of it desire, is often employed in useless recollections ; a storehouse for trifles, and not to improving subjects as the gift of nature.

Retentiveness is the firmness with which the ideas communicated are retained, and from the difficulty such people have in treasuring up their knowledge, they commonly impress the choicest things on this principle, and are thus compensated for their labour.

Readiness is the facility with which we recollect things, and is highly useful to those who act in public life : It is, as well as susceptibility and retentiveness, capable of great improvement by habit, and continued and persevering efforts.

I have now given nearly as much information as can be communicated on the subject. I might indeed, enter into a large field of speculation, about the improvement of the memory, the variety of it in different individuals, or of *artificial memory*, a professor of which extraordinary art, read a course of lectures in Glasgow and Edinburgh, this year, for the small fee of five guineas for fifteen lectures !

QUINTUS QUIZ.

Doran's Rock.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

I PERCEIVE, with regret, by your last month's Magazine, that you

have come to the resolution of relinquishing your publication at the end of the year. I therefore take the liberty, before the close of the work, of correcting a small mistake, which your ingenious correspondent S.M.S. has fallen into, respecting the derivation of *Ballymena*, in his *Sketch of a Ramble*, in 1810, which was published in your Magazine, for May, 1812. The author there states, that the town takes its name from *Bailliemainath*, which signifies the town upon the ford of the river Main. Now this I apprehend to be erroneous, as Ballymena is not within a mile and a half of the river Main ; and therefore could not, with any propriety, be named from that river, it being situated on the *Braid Water*, which falls into the Main, a considerable distance below the town. The more probable derivation is, that *Ballymenagh*, as it was originally pelt, signifies the *Middle Town* ; from *Bally*, a town ; and *Menagh*, *Middle* ; and this is strongly corroborated by the well known fact of the market-house being supposed to be situated near the centre of the county. The derivation of *Craigbilly* is probably also from *Craig* and *Bally*, meaning the town on the *Craig*. From what I have just stated, I hope your correspondent will not suppose that I have any intention of depreciating his labours ; on the contrary, I think he deserves the thanks of every one interested in the topography of our island.

I remain, &c.

G.

November 9th, 1812.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN.

I HAVE read with great pleasure, in your last month's Magazine, an ingenious communication, from Dr. Ogilby, of Dublin, containing

his remarks on the celebrated Sir Humphry Davy's proposal of substitution of the *oxy-muriate of magnesia*, for the *oxy-muriate of lime*, in the process of bleaching linen and cotton cloths; and am perfectly persuaded, from some experiments which I have since tried, and from every inquiry which I have made, that Dr. Ogilby is fully justified in asserting, that oxy muriate of lime does not possess any perceptible corrosive action on the vegetable fibre; and therefore must always have a preference over oxy-muriate of magnesia, till the latter can be obtained at an infinitely cheaper rate than the former, which is impossible, in the present state of chemical knowledge. In the process of *clearing* printed goods, the oxy-muriate of magnesia certainly possesses some properties above the oxy-muriate of lime; because steeping printed goods, after being dyed, in the last mentioned liquor, not only changes all the colours in a certain degree, and renders them of a duller hue, but particles of lime, also, attach themselves so intimately to the cloth, that it acts as a discharge, and effaces the colours almost entirely.

We must therefore feel grateful to Dr. Ogilby for his valuable communication, and for his so ably defending an article of so much importance in our staple manufacture, and which is so much cheaper than that which the Professor would substitute in its stead.

In page 250, col. 2, Dr. Ogilby mentions the *Edinburgh Cyclopadia*; I suppose he meant the *Edinburgh Encyclopadia*, conducted by Dr. Brewster; in which work, the curious reader, under the article "*bleaching*," will find a satisfactory account of the whole process, and of all the ingredients used in that process, with their manufacture; honourable mention is also made of Mr. *Grimshaw*, near Belfast, who was the first person that recommended *souring*, a practice now generally adopted.*

I remain yours, &c.

G.

Ballytresna, Nov. 12th, 1812.

* Previously to the receipt of this letter, it had been determined to insert copious extracts from the *Edinburgh Encyclopadia*, on the subject of bleaching.—See the *Improvements in the Arts*, &c. B.M.M.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

MEMOIRS OF FRANCIS, DUKE OF BEDFORD.

FRANCIS, DUKE OF BEDFORD was born in July, 1765; he lost both his parents when he was about three years of age. His father, the Marquis of Tavistock, was killed by a fall from his horse; the Marchioness did not long survive him.

Under the circumstances in which his Grace was placed, high in rank, and the heir of one of the most

ample fortunes in England, we cannot be surprised, if he indulged in early life in some of those amusements which are too commonly the sole occupation of young men of fashion. Among these, the turf seems to have engaged his early and most earnest attention; it was indeed the favourite pursuit of his grandfather, whom he succeeded in the title and family estates. The Duke of Bedford, however, addicted himself to this sport, rather